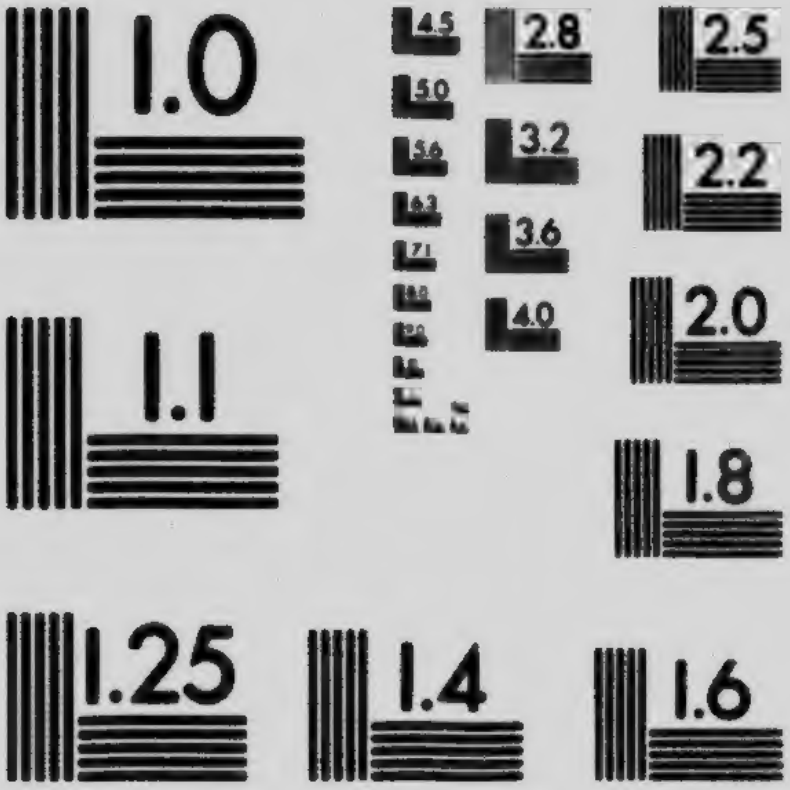

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STRATH GOWAN

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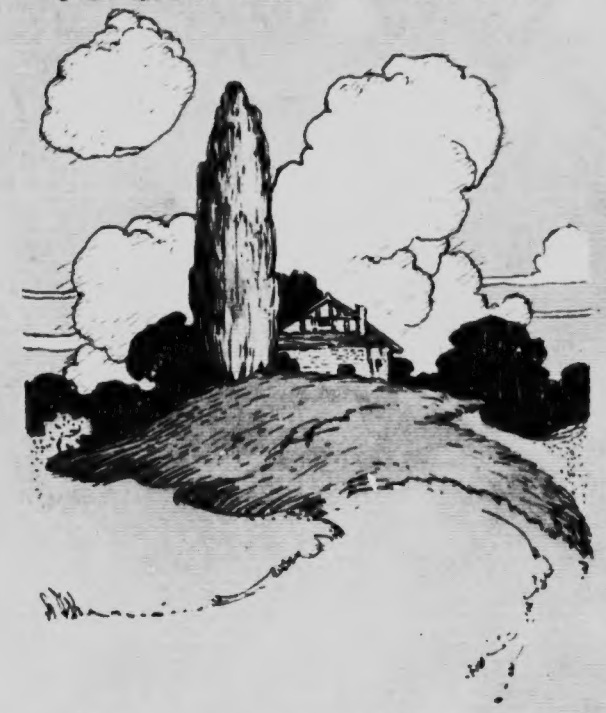
STRATH GOWAN

THE SOUTHERN ANNEX TO LAWRENCE PARK



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PRESIDENT

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MAIN-7281·

A STRATH GOWAN ROAD RIVALING THE FAR-FAMED LANES OF DEVONSHIRE

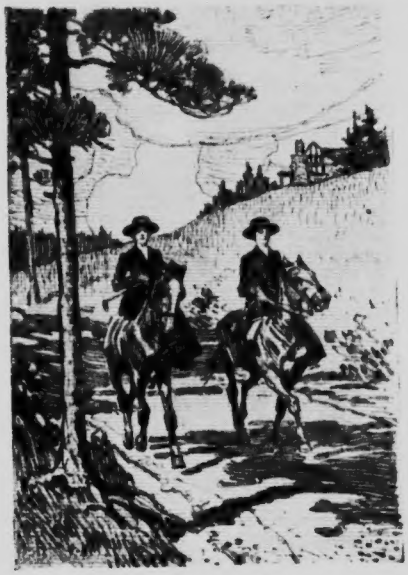
BR 917.13541 S76

STRATH GOWAN

SOUTHERN ANNEX to LAWRENCE PARK

SUNLIGHT AND SHADE IN THE WOOD, STRATH GOWAN

NOTHING like it exists in all Ontario!" One who has lived here seventy years and has travelled the province over speaks thus of "Strath Gowan"—and he is right. Imagine a deep, shadowy forest—no bush or saplings and impenetrable underbrush, such as you will meet anywhere—but a forest of great trees that far up in the air mingle their branches together in a roof that all but shuts out the sky. Great tree trunks fill the view on every side, most of them too large to be encircled by a man's arms and all of them standing straight up out of the undulating, brown-leaf covered soil to rise twenty, thirty or forty feet in the air without so much as



STRATH GOWAN

SOUTHERN ANNEX to LAWRENCE PARK

FORMAL GARDEN—LAWRENCE PARK ESTATE

a bend or a knot to spoil the wonderful symmetry of their pillared proportions.

In the midst of this you walk on and on, following the scarcely distinguishable paths, over which a horse and buggy may readily be driven. Oak, pine, beech and maple are all about you. In the distance their trunks form an unbroken, seemingly impenetrable fence of heroic height. You are in a forest such as does not elsewhere exist this side of the Metagami, and there, only in a few small sections as yet untouched by the lumberman. This is original timber—no second growth is here. When they were sturdy saplings, Toronto was not even a n[illegible] in the woods. With something of a shock one remembers this forest, the beautiful glen and rolling fields that lead

STRATH GOWAN

SOUTHERN ANNEX to LAWRENCE PARK

ONE OF THE WOODLAND PATHS—STRATH GOWAN

into it are now a part of that fast-spreading city. You are swallowed up in a mighty wood to which the eye can see no end, and you try to realize you are still within the city limits.

It is thus Strath Gowan impresses one at first acquaintance. In walking through its hundred odd acres surprise follows upon surprise until there comes the realization that here within the limits of the City of Toronto is one of the most magnificent home-building sites to be found within the borders of any city in the world.

Toronto has ever been fortunate in this respect. East and west she has spread over stretches of beautiful country. To the north she has been even more fortunate. As a climax to the wide area

STRATH GOWAN

SOUTHERN ANNEX to LAWRENCE PARK

AN OPEN SPACE IN STRATH GOWAN

of garden city that, in accordance with modern ideas, is springing up across her north end, she has the Lawrence Park Estates fast being built up into one of the most beautiful residential districts of this continent.

Strath Gowan adjoins this property on the south. It is fitting that the splendid enterprise that has directed the skill of the landscape architect and gardener to the successful planning and actual laying-out of this great property should take Strath Gowan in hand to develop its beauties and to take all possible unique advantage of them in preparing it for the beautiful homes that will be shortly erected within its borders.

There is an historic interest attaching to Strath Gowan that in a measure ex-

STRATH GOWAN

SOUTHERN ANNEX to LAWRENCE PARK

A WILLOW-FRINGED BROOK RUNNING THROUGH THE GLEN

plains why it has stood through all the years undesecrated by the axe of lumberman and unbroken by the levelling plow of the farmer. A generation or two ago the name Jesse Ketchum meant much in Upper Canada. The benefices of the man whom school-children of today are taught to revere extended far beyond the little town Toronto then was. Ere the surrounding forest had been levelled and the country entirely divided up into farms he had chosen Strath Gowan as his homestead, building his house on the edge of the woods, fostering and guarding with loving care the original beauties of the estate. Those to whose ownership it later passed were equally minded it should retain the glories that had endeared it to the heart of

STRATH GOWAN

SOUTHERN ANNEX to LAWRENCE PARK

MAGNIFICENT MAPLE AND PINE-CLAD HILL TOP

Jesse Ketchum. Thus it still stands, an unequalled example of what Ontario was one hundred years ago—truly, a magnificent bit of the unreconstructible past.

Intrinsic beauty of surroundings is much to the home-builder. But no less important is the matter of convenient and suitable situation. Strath Gowan is no less favored in one than it is in the other.

The recent annexation of North Toronto has placed it well within the city limits, ensuring that, within a short time, a direct car line will connect it with the centre of the city. The entrance is on the east side of Yonge Street, within a few yards of the Glengrove stop on the Metropolitan line. Twenty-five minutes on the street car will land one at King and Yonge Streets. Being several hun-

STRATH GOWAN

SOUTHERN ANNEX to LAWRENCE PARK

AFTERNOON SHADOWS IN STRATH GOWAN WOOD

dred feet above the level of the lake it has all the advantages of pure, dry air, such as the growth of a great manufacturing city makes impossible further south. The soil is light and sandy, affording the best possible drainage. The healthfulness of the district is thus guaranteed.

The estate is entered from Yonge Street through a long avenue of pines that lead to the old Ketchum homestead, a building which will long remain one of the landmarks of the district. Passing this on the north side the roadway leads down through the beautiful glen that has given the district its name. Here runs a little stream that finds its way through the ravine that fronts the Lawrence Park Estates, past wooded

STRATH GOWAN

SOUTHERN ANNEX to LAWRENCE PARK

A SWEEP OF VALLEY IN BETWEEN THE PINES

knolls and well-kept lawns until, having gone through Strath Gowan's glen, it finds its way between the hills and into the Don River.

It is at this point one is struck with the remarkably English character of the scene, in which it bears a distinct resemblance to the unrivaled beauty of the grounds of the Rosedale Golf Club which lie considerably to the north. The broad ravine has for many years been divided into grazing paddocks. Their close-clipped green sward sets out the foliage of the trees of mature, sturdy growth that grace the landscape. To the south the land rises gently, running on this hand to a thick wood, splendid in variegated colorings, and on that, over the hill and out across country.

STRATH GOWAN

SOUTHERN ANNEX to LAWRENCE PARK

A SHADOW-CHECKERED ROAD—STRATH GOWAN

The road runs through this for about a quarter of a mile and on into the shade of the great trees. In a moment the scene has completely changed. The open, hilly country that borders the glen has become a more gently undulating forest, surely destined to be far-famed as richest in natural beauty of all Toronto's beautiful residential districts.

It is true that most of the charm of Strath Gowan might easily be destroyed at the hands of those who would indiscriminately run roads through it, cut it up into building lots and erect thereon such houses as are too often to be seen marring places of great natural beauty. That such s' uld happen to Strath Gowan is inconceivable. That which has already been done in other districts by the

STRATH GOWAN

SOUTHERN ANNEX to LAWRENCE PARK

AN OPEN PLAIN ON THE EDGE OF THE WOOD

Dovercourt Land, Building and Savings Company is guarantee that no desecration of this unique district will take place. The present condition of the Lawrence Park Estates is sure indication that, rather than spoiled and relegated to the commonplace, Strath Gowan will achieve added charm in the process of becoming a district of high-class homes.

Landscape architects of continental reputation will bring their skill and experience to the task of mapping out the roads that are to wind their way through this scene of ever-changing charm and interest. The beauties of Strath Gowan have been too many centuries in the making to allow them to be disregarded now. Together with its planning and actual laying-out, will go

STRATH GOWAN

SOUTHERN ANNEX to LAWRENCE PARK

WINDING, UNDULATING ROADS THROUGH THE WOODLAND

forward the work of installing drains, gas and electric light, so that it will be equipped with every convenience obtainable in the heart of the city before any buildings are erected upon it.

Very generally in Europe and in some places in America the art of town-planning has a very high place in modern science. The home-builders of the present day, who are making the world of to-morrow, are seeking to make more beautiful the surroundings amongst which men live—hence the art of town-planning and garden-suburb building.

All this will find its best expression in the laying-out of Strath Gowan. The desire of every man to plant his home amidst the natural beauties of the country and thus give his wife and children the

STRATH GOWAN

SOUTHERN ANNEX to LAWRENCE PARK

ON THE EDGE OF THE FOREST, STRATH GOWAN

pleasures and opportunities for health that are to a greater or less extent denied the city-dweller is responsible for the ever-growing popularity of country dwelling. It is only when large tracts of beautiful country such as Strath Gowan and the Lawrence Park Estates are taken in hand by responsible and enterprising organizations thoroughly alive to the progression of modern thought in relation to home-planning as the Dovercourt Land, Building and Savings Co. has proved itself to be that this garden suburb planning can be accomplished with anything like success.

In these two estates this great work is going forward as it is nowhere else in Canada. Each is the complement of the other. The unexampled beauties of

STRATH GOWAN

SOUTHERN ANNEX to LAWRENCE PARK

ENTRANCE TO HOMESTEAD OF NICHOLAS GARLAND

Strath Gowan are such as would make famous any city in the world. When, in the course of a short while, it is judiciously filled with such houses as the overseeing architects of the estate shall have passed upon as fitting to the surroundings, it will in sheer beauty and charm far surpass anything in Canada and equal any of the world's most famous garden suburbs.

One can imagine these woods and sunny glens re-echoing the voices of healthy, happy children, while here and there through the trees appear artistic, well-designed houses (not necessarily of great cost) blending with the scene, and in winter and summer making a series of pictures to which every hour of the day and night will impart new delights.

Entered according to Act of the Parliament of Canada in the year 1912

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